

## No. 27



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EDMONTON BULLETIN, MAY 3, 1884.

#### INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

Of all the departments at Ottawa that of the interior is of the deepest interest to people in the North-West. Indeed it would be more appropriate to call it the department of the North-West, for while it deals almost exclusively with North-Western affairs the affairs of the North-West are almost entirely under its control. Instead of the North-West being governed by the governor-general the senate and the house of commons, it is ruled absolutely by the head of this department, and it is only fair to say that considering all the circumstances it is no worse ruled than might reasonably be expected. As the ruler and the majority of his subordinates know nothing personally of the matters with which they have to deal, as they are without advice from anyone who does know and whose direct interest it is to tell the truth, and as their rule is absolute, it is probably no more despotic or ignorant than if it were in the hands of any other person or persons similarly circumstanced. And when in the report of this department we find amongst the vast mass of valuable, encouraging and reliable information a few statements made or conclusions drawn which are contrary to known facts and sound sense, it is not matter for surprise. It must be borne in mind that while the facts stated are for the information of all, the arguments advanced and reasons given are for the ear of the great voting public of the eastern provinces, who know less, if possible, concerning these things than their rulers, not for the people of the North-West who are in a position to use their own arguments and give their own reasons as to the why and wherefore of everything from practical knowledge. So that many an argument that looks very well in and passes for gospel in a blue book in the east cuts but a sorry figure when scanned by North-West people from their stand point.

On the first page of the report the following passage occurs: "Although the year 1883 does not show so great an increase in the business of the department over the preceding year as did 1882 over 1881 and although in regard to the receipts from sales and leases of the public lands there was a slight decrease the rate of progress has been fairly maintained." The figures upon which this statement is founded show a decrease of 200,000 acres in homesteads taken and a similar amount in pre-emptions from 1882. A decrease of 20 per cent. in homesteads and 25 per cent. in pre-emptions, while the sales fell off over two-thirds, from 600,000 acres in 1882 to 200,000 in 1883. This is what the report blandly calls fairly maintaining the rate of progress. An elaborate explanation is entered into to show that the falling off in homesteads is not so great as is apparent in which the irrepressible speculative homesteader comes in for the ordinary share of blame. But it is not explained why there has been a falling off at all in the face of the opening up of 250 miles of prairie additional during that summer, and of the strenuous efforts of the government to protect the homesteader from the speculator by the locking up of the various reserves. If the additional country opened up by the railway was good country, if the creation of these reserves was for the benefit of the settler, if the settlers in the country were receiving fair treatment and achieving fair success, how does it happen that the rate of increase was lessened, instead of being still further increased by these advantages. It must be remembered that it was not until the season of immigration had closed that the wheat was frozen or the wicked farmers' agitation was commenced while the speculative squatter must have been nearly smothered out. It was not that the movement of immigrants towards the North-West had ceased for Dakota increased more

rapidly during that season than ever before. It was the old story. The government and the syndicate between them had been killing the goose that was laying the golden egg. They wanted to make money too fast and too much of it out of the country. The government began to grudge the settler the land which he desired to take and hedged him about with idiotic and oppressive regulations so that he should not take up more land than was good for him and above all that he should make no money out of it. While the syndicate for its share of the lunacy persisted, in the face of reason and knowledge, in pushing the railroad through a country, which, although it is not the desert it was thought to be, is certainly the least inviting portion of the North-West. The action taken had its inevitable result. People wanted free land and plenty of it, security in their holdings, railway communication and an inviting country. These conditions could all have been supplied in the North-West, but they were not and settlers declined to come. Once the settlers ceased to arrive the bottom fell out of the price of land and the money that the government and syndicate had expected to make by their extra sharpness, by that very sharpness was prevented from becoming more than a dream. These are the reasons for the falling off in the immigration which the blue book neglects to explain, and this falling off is the reason of the throwing open of the reserves, the increased liberality of the homestead laws and will yet be the reason of other and greater changes in favor of the settler before the ground lost has been regained. Obtuse as the Ottawa authorities are and little as they will admit the fact the scheme of realizing cash value for the millions of acres in the North-West by selling out to speculators has miserably failed and therefore has to be abandoned. In the interests of the North-West and Canada it is to be hoped that it will be wholly abandoned and never followed again.

The report further says that the efforts of the colonization societies towards settling their tracts have been successful to a gratifying extent. This statement is based upon the fact that 664 entries were made on the 2,973,978 acres affected by the grants during the two years that the societies have been at work. It is true that an enumeration was made on only 12 out of 26 tracts but it is also true that the tracts enumerated were in all probability more thickly settled than the remainder as the report bears evidence of an intention on the part of the minister to as far as possible shield the system from reprobation. It is also worthy of note that it is not stated that 664 actual settlers were placed on their tracts by the companies but merely that 664 entries were made through their agency. How little the number of entries has to do with the colonization efforts of the companies may be judged from the fact that the Edmonton & Saskatchewan land and company can probably show a larger proportion of entries than any other and yet has not assisted the first bona fide settler into the country—has in fact only come in to reap the fruits of what others have sown. Take the figures as they stand, 664 entries on nearly 3,000,000 acres, with the agreement of the companies to put two settlers on each section within five years. According to the agreement 9,690 settlers should be placed on that amount of land within five years or 1,938 per year. In the two years that have elapsed since the companies were organized they have not placed quite one-third as many settlers on their tracts—supposing them to have placed the settlers they claim—as their agreement called for in one year. Or supposing the 14 remaining unenumerated companies to have placed as many settlers as the 12 enumerated they still in two years have not done the work they should have done in one. Still better evidence as to their not having in any degree fulfilled the purpose for which they were ostensibly organized is the fact that during the first year of their existence, when it is asserted they were unable to do much in the way of colonizing, settlement was greater than ever before, while in the second year, notwithstanding the opening up of an immense area of country by the railway and the fact that they must surely have been in working order if they were ever to be so, the settlement shows a very decided

falling off. While during the opening of the present year, when numerous adverse circumstances were or are affecting immigration not a whisper is heard of the slightest effort at colonization being put forward by a solitary company. In such a case as this, if ever, they would have an opportunity to display their usefulness, but where are they doing it? The answer is nowhere. Instead of efforts being made to loyally fulfil their agreements we hear only of their efforts to have the terms of these agreements made more favorable to them and correspondingly more injurious to the North-West.

The reason given for the making of the mile belt and southern reserves—to prevent speculation—is so utterly absurd as not to be worth an argument. If these reserves were not made for speculative purposes on the part of the government no reason plausible or otherwise, existed for their being made, and their making stands as a gratuitous injury done the North-West, in locking up valuable lands from settlement that was ready to go on them.

No exhibit of the results of the grazing lease system is given but attention is called to the large revenue some \$200,000 derived from it, and to the slight value given in return, and the astounding statement is made that the "introduction of large herds of cattle and the granting of the exclusive privilege of ranging within certain districts to the owners of these cattle, have been the means of inducing an influx of population into regions which would otherwise have remained unnoticed for years." This method of putting the case would be clever if it did not involve an absurd falsehood of gigantic proportions. Everyone knows that the granting of these exclusive privileges were the means of keeping out large numbers of small cattle owners which means population to a greater extent than when larger herds are brought in. It is also notorious that the greatest and best reason ever advanced for the leasing system was that it would prevent a general overstocking of the country which otherwise would be inevitable. If then the quantity of stock and number of population has been kept down by the lease system, as its upholders in the past have held, the statement of the report that it has increased the population, must be false. Both arguments certainly cannot be correct.

In view of the fact that there are three saw mills operating in this vicinity neither of which have yet succeeded in securing a timber limit, while limits are held on the river above here by parties who have never yet cut a log or owned a mill within five hundred miles, the statement by the report that limits are offered at a small original cost to mill owners only and that thereby the price of lumber has been reduced, will be received not with a grain but with a barrel of salt. Whatever may be the course pursued in Manitoba we have the best of evidence that no such course is now or ever has been pursued here.

Attention is called to the fact mentioned in the report of the lieutenant-governor of the North-West that although the selection of Regina as the capital met with much adverse criticism it was endorsed unanimously by the North-West council. Elsewhere attention is called to the fact mentioned in the same report that settlers look upon the surrounding settlement made by colonization societies as of great advantage to them. The lieutenant-governor quotes the endorsement of the site of the capital by the North-West council with great satisfaction but fails to mention the sweeping condemnation unanimously passed upon colonization societies by the same council in which he himself acquiesced, and particularly upon the societies whose grants came in contact with previous settlers. As a matter of fact the council did not unanimously endorse the site of the North-West capital. Knowing that the location was finally made and that large sums of public and private funds had already been spent in the place, the council did not feel called upon to condemn what was unalterable when that condemnation would certainly work injury to innocent parties. They therefore accepted the location without objection just as the lieutenant-governor did the council's objection to colonization societies in general and in particular, but like him also without endorsing it.

BROWN & CURRY,

GENERAL MERCHANTS,

Beg to inform the public that their long expected freight has arrived at last, and that they have now on hand the

LARGEST AND MOST COMPLETE STOCK

That has ever been brought into the North-West,

WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

Although the rate of freight is high we pay no more than others, and as we have

NO MIDDLE MEN TO CONTEND WITH

As others have, and as our goods are all bought direct from the importers or manufacturers, and

SELECTED FROM THE BEST QUALITIES

We are able to offer

BETTER AND CHEAPER GOODS THAN ANY OTHER FIRM IN EDMONTON.

We respectfully ask everyone to call and examine our goods before purchasing elsewhere.

BROWN & CURRY

GREAT SACRIFICE

OF

DRY GOODS

READY MADE CLOTHING

BOOTS & SHOES.

A. MACDONALD & CO.

Will dispose of the above stock at a

SMALL ADVANCE ON COST

To make room for spring importations. These goods are all first class, bought for cash in the

CHEAPEST MARKET IN THE WORLD

And customers will find it to their advantage to give us a call within the next thirty days.

A FEW SETS PLAIN HARNESS

And 50 bush. Seed Potatoes, at

A. MACDONALD & CO.







## SETTLEMENT OF OLD CLAIMS.

Sir.—Concerning the article in your newspaper of 8th March last, in which complaint is made of the mode of procedure adopted, permit me to say:

In the great majority of cases which arise in the old settlements along the Saskatchewan river there is no provision in the Dominion Lands Act which would equitably apply to them and were the terms of that act enforced in many instances great hardship would be imposed upon the settlers.

To meet these cases and in order to arrive at an equitable settlement parliament has conferred upon the governor-in-council authority to deal with them outside of the ordinary provisions of the Dominion Lands Act.

By virtue of this authority I was instructed to investigate these old claims and the land board to decide them and an order-in-council was framed intended to embrace all cases that might arise.

Soon after the commencement of my inquiry into the claims at Prince Albert, it became apparent that no provision had been made to meet many of the cases and it was therefore deemed advisable to complete the investigation and to make a full report, recommending a line of action for the approval of the governor-in-council to meet the several classes of claims.

This was done. On the 7th of March I reached Winnipeg and on the 12th of March my report was forwarded to the minister, but owing to a great pressure of work during the session, it was not until the 7th inst., that this office was advised that the report was approved. On the 9th inst. a report and complete schedule covering all the cases, were transmitted to the minister and by next mail the agent at Prince Albert will receive his instructions. Under the present system of issuing patents at Ottawa, if any delay occurs, it will be the fault of the applicants themselves.

To one not familiar with these matters it may no doubt seem that there exists a great deal of unnecessary routine, but you will if you inquire particularly, understand that great care must be exercised in keeping books of record, as failing this most vexatious confusion would be likely to ensue, and the injury of public interests thereby occasioned would be much more serious than the delay now complained of.

In conclusion, let me assure you that none can be more anxious than the land board to have the claims of old bona fide settlers in Manitoba and the North-West territories settled promptly and to the satisfaction of the claimants, and that no unnecessary delay will occur in making the necessary investigation and settlement at Edmonton and Battleford.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,  
WM. PEARCE.

Winnipeg, April 10, 1884.

It will be seen by Mr. Pearce's letter that the method of settlement of claims and disputes regarding claims on the Saskatchewan has been, as contended by the Bulletin, far from satisfactory. He says that the terms of the lands act would, if strictly enforced, do injustice to the settlers, therefore an order in council was passed for the equitable settlement of these old claims, which when brought to bear at Prince Albert was found to be inapplicable in many cases. For this reason the work was merely reported instead of being completed. It is gratifying to know that Mr. Pearce accompanied his report with a recommendation as to what would be a proper course to adopt and that his recommendation has been acted upon. No doubt from Mr. Pearce having been on the ground and having acquainted himself fully with the facts, his recommendations will be found acceptable to the settlers affected, and we at Edmonton will reap the benefit of his experience and exertions when our turn comes. But as nothing is said by Mr. Pearce and nothing is known by outsiders as to what his recommendations were or what course is likely to be followed it is impossible to endorse them just yet. It is pleasing to know that the Prince Albert people will be finally dealt with shortly, and that there will be no delay in issuing patents. As to the routine followed in the settlement of claims and the issue of patents the objection is not so much to the act of a lengthy routine being followed as to the method of the routine. While not prepared to enlarge on the principles of British justice, the right of habeas corpus, and the right to disinterested judges, we humbly submit that a dispute between a settler and the government—which is what the attempt of the former to prove a claim amounts to—should be tried, not by the representative of one of the interested parties, but by an impartial judge guided by the principles and precedents of British common law, that the proceedings should be entirely public, and the decision rendered on the ground, such decision to be binding upon both parties—in short, that land courts be established, and that instead of a settler's right to landed property resting on the will or wishes of the officials of a department, that they rest on ground at least as secure as his rights to other descriptions of property. Everyone will be

glad to hear that the land board is anxious to settle the claims of actual settlers on the Saskatchewan and that no unnecessary delay will occur, but when it is remembered that these claims have been demanding settlement for some twelve or thirteen years and have as yet scarcely achieved recognition, the impatience that has been displayed may be excused.

## GENERAL NEWS.

Capt. J. Stewart has been re-elected managing director of the Stewart ranch company.

Sleighting still lingered in Winnipeg on March 29th.

The C.P.R. telegraph line from Winnipeg to Montreal will probably be completed by May 1st.

Charlton's seduction bill has passed the commons but will likely be defeated in the senate.

The Calgary bills relating to the ranchers' bank and the omnibus transfer and tramway company have been withdrawn.

Alderman George Ham is likely to be appointed clerk of the Manitoba legislative council, vice J. McBeath, resigned.

The federal government has signified a willingness to refer the Ontario boundary dispute to the imperial privy council.

It is probable that \$5,000 of federal money will be spent in improving Water Hen river connecting lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis.

The terms of settlement agreed upon between Canada and British Columbia are not satisfactory to the representatives of that province.

The consolidated railway act of Canada is to be amended so as to prevent a railway company from buying the bonds or stocks of other railways.

A wheat rate of 25 cents a bushel from Winnipeg to Montreal is to be given by the C.P.R. Passenger rates will be \$43 first class and \$17 second class, or \$77.05 from Montreal to Calgary first class and \$36.05 second class. Immigrants effects from Montreal to Calgary will be \$1.79 per hundred or \$185.50 per car. Immigrant passenger rates from Montreal to Winnipeg will be \$9.75.

The Winnipeg & Hudson's bay railway company has issued a table of distances between Winnipeg and Churchill harbor. The distance from Winnipeg to Grand Rapids on the Saskatchewan is 245 miles, from Grand Rapids to Limestone bay at the foot of Lake Winnipeg, 50 miles, Limestone bay to Little Churchill river, 310 miles, Little Churchill river to Churchill harbor, 100 miles.

The terms of Canada's settlement with British Columbia are: Canada agrees to give the railway company incorporated by the legislature of British Columbia \$750,000 for building a railway from Esquimalt to Nanaimo, the company to receive a grant of the land for twenty miles on each side of the road. Material for the railway free. Canada to purchase the Esquimalt dry dock for \$250,000 and to receive from British Columbia 3,500,000 acres of land in the Peace river country.

The feathers of the great American eagle are ruffled. The occasion arose thusly. A prominent German politician named Lasker died recently and some members of the U.S. house of representatives in order to make themselves solid with their German constituents moved a resolution of condolence expressing the appreciation of the aforesaid representatives of the views and work of the lamented Lasker who happened to be one of Bismarck's most able and bitter opponents. The resolution was forwarded to Bismarck for presentation to the German parliament. As the resolution was a condemnation of Bismarck's policy he sent it back with a note stating in effect that as he did not agree with the terms of the resolution he could not present it. Since then the U.S. papers have been discussing the question as to what they are going to do about it and have arrived at the conclusion that they can't do anything about it and had better mind their own business in future.

A person having reason to believe that a homestead is liable to cancellation, makes an application for inspection, and files the same with the land agent for the district in which the land is situate, at the same time depositing a bond fee of \$10 for each quarter section, as an evidence of good faith. The agent forwards the application to the Winnipeg office with an abstract of the entries upon the land affected. Thereupon the homesteader is notified to put in his defence (if any) within 60 days, and an inspector is detailed, at as early a date as possible, to inspect the land and report the facts. Where cancellation ensues, the applicant has the first right of entry for 30 days. He may take 80 acres as a homestead and 80 acres as a pre-emption at \$2.50 per acre, payable when he acquires title. Or when a half section has been cancelled and the applicant wishes both quarters, he can obtain 160 acres as a homestead and 160 as a pre-emption; but it is required to pay such price beyond \$2.50 per acre for the pre-emption, as the situation and quality of the land warrants—the price in excess of \$2.50 per acre to be paid at time of entry and the balance on acquiring title.

Mr. Patterson of Brant moved that no public money be spent in assisting to Canada mechanics, artisans, clerks and laborers, except agricultural laborers. He contended that the C.P.R. had not induced the amount of immigration promised when the contract was let. Lost by 101 to 51.

The mounted police tried 336 cases in 1883, including one for murder, twelve for horse stealing, and sixty-six for bringing liquor into the territories without permit. Mr. Van Horne compliments the force on the good order kept in the territories. The amount of duties collected at Ft. MacLeod and Maple creek was \$75,000. The value of dutiable goods entered at Ft. MacLeod was \$248,000, free goods \$404,000.

## DIED.

NOYES.—On the 15th of April, Alice Margaret, fourth daughter of D. E. Noyes of St. Albert road, aged six months and nineteen days.

## METEOROLOGICAL.

Weather report for week ending Friday evening, May 2nd, 1884. Reported for the BULLETIN by Mr. Alexander Taylor, observer at Edmonton.

	Max.	Min.
Saturday,	45	20
Sunday,	54	23
Monday,	61	28
Tuesday,	62	27
Wednesday,	58	30
Thursday,	65	26
Friday,	70	42

Barometer falling, 27.38.

FOR SALE.—Four ponies (one a lady's pony), light wagon, set double harness, set single harness, side saddle and bridle, two carts, four sets cart harness. Terms cash. Apply to A. Anderson, at R. Logan's, St. Albert road.

## SEE

## NEW ADVERTISEMENT

## NEXT ISSUE.

J. A. McDOUGALL & CO.

## CHURCHES.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—Hours of Sunday service: All-Saints 11 a.m., St. Michael's 6.30 p.m. W.N.

ST. JOACHIM'S, R. C. CHURCH, Edmonton.—Mass at 10 a.m. every Sunday. Sermon in English and Cree. Afternoon services at 3 o'clock. H. GRANDIN, O.M.I.

METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA.—D. C. Sanderson, Pastor. Hours of service, 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Sabbath School, 2.30 p.m. Prayer meeting and lecture, Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.

EDMONTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Pastor—the Rev. Andrew B. Baird, M.A., B.D. Sabbath services, 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Sabbath school at 2.30 p.m. Prayer meeting and meeting for the practice of sacred music on Thursday evening at 7. The usual Sabbath morning service will be interrupted by Mr. Baird's monthly visit to Fort Saskatchewan on May 18th.

## NOTICES.

POTATOES.—One hundred bushels of Early Rose and Beauty of Hebron potatoes for sale at ALLAN OMAND'S, South side.

NOTICE.—Important to Stock Raisers. A well bred bull, three years old, imported from Winnipeg, in good condition for service, at J. IRVINE'S, south side.

PUBLIC NOTICE.—Persons hereafter removing fences and trespassing on the Hermitage property will be prosecuted according to law. W. NEWTON.

NOTICE.—All parties are hereby notified to give no credit on my account to my wife Virginia Gagnon, she having left my bed and board without just cause or provocation. ISAAC GAGNON.

NOTICE.—The partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned as cabinet makers, has been this day dissolved by mutual consent. All parties indebted to the late firm must settle with Xavier St. Jean, who will settle all accounts against the said firm, and continue the business himself. X. ST. JEAN, N. ST. JEAN. Edmonton, April 17th, 1884.

NOTICE.—The Edmonton and Saskatchewan land company of Canada are bringing in for the benefit of the Edmonton settlement, 400 bushels seed wheat which will be sold at cost and arrive here about the 15th instant. For full particulars apply at the company's office, Clover bar.—Offices of the Edmonton & Saskatchewan land company of Canada, 4th April, 1884. G. A. SIMPSON, agent.

IMPORTANT TO HORSEMEN.—The stallion "Rupert" is now in condition and will serve mares for the season at \$10 each, terms—cash at time of service. All mares at owner's risk. This horse is from Canadian stock, raised in this district, is dark brown in color, stands 16 hands high, weight 1200 lbs, symmetrically built, and is a good roaster. May be seen and inspected any time at his stable at Turnip lake. W. ROWLAND.

NOTICE!—Important to Farmers and others. The best value in Self-Binders, Reapers, Mowers and Rakes. The Massey Manufacturing Company, Toronto, makers of the Toronto Mower and Twine Binder, the Massey Harvester and Mower and the Sharps' Horse Rake, offer the above at great bargains. Parties wishing to purchase should communicate without delay so as to ensure early delivery with our agent.—GEORGE A. BLAKE, Belmont Farm, Edmonton.

ADVERTISEMENT.—This is to announce that I am willing to allow a roadway to my neighbors and the public across my pre-emption claim if it be needful, provided nothing be done to prejudice my right to that claim, and necessary fencing be done to protect my place on the north side of my house as I may direct. Or I shall not object, on the same conditions, to a road from any proposed river crossing, on the flat, which from the crossing leads to Mrs. Stewart's road, and which has an easy grade to and fro for public uses. Through my homestead I allow no right of way whatever. WM. NEWTON.

EDMONTON AND CALGARY STAGE.—Making weekly trips between said points—leaves the Jasper house, Edmonton, at 9 and the steamboat dock at 9.30 o'clock every Monday morning, stopping at Peace hills, Battle river, Red Deer crossing and Willow creek, and arriving at Calgary on Friday. Returning, leaves Calgary Monday, stops at same places, and arrives at Edmonton on Friday. Fare each way \$25; 100 lbs baggage allowed. Express matter 10c per lb. Passengers arriving in Edmonton and wishing to go to St. Albert or Ft. Saskatchewan, will be forwarded to those places at a very moderate charge. Edmonton office in Jasper house; Calgary office in H.B.Co. store. D. McLEOD, proprietor.